

LAMBDA VALLEY

MONTHLY

VIOLENCE AGAINST US

ANSWERS TO A PROBLEM
THAT'S HARD TO IDENTIFY,
HARD TO COMBAT.

It's hard to identify. It's harder to combat. But the group who gathered at the Lambda Center on March 13 found plenty of ideas about it to discuss.

The subject was violence--both against and within the gay community. Co-sponsored by the Crime Victims Council and the Lambda Center, the program featured a presentation by Kevin Berrill, manager of the National Gay Task Force's violence project, which bases him in Washington, D.C.

The other panelists included Sherry Sheppherd of the Crime Victims Council and Lieut. Andrew J. Wiesner, head of the Allentown Police vice squad and a 22-year veteran of the force.

But just as significant as who was there was the significance of who wasn't. Invitations by the panel's organizers to the police departments of Bethlehem and Easton did not even draw the courtesy of a reply, much less a representative of the force, as had been requested.

"I think that really speaks highly of our topic tonight," says "J" Diane Stuart of the Crime Victims Council. She served as moderator of the program.

Berrill told the 30-member audience that turned out for the occasion that the problem of violence in the gay community is greater than many people believe be-

cause so few gays and lesbians report crimes that have been committed against them. Indeed, Berrill said studies show that as high as 75 percent of the crimes against gay people go unreported to the authorities.

And that 75 percent fails to report crimes against them for a variety of reasons, Berrill said. Many fear that their gay lifestyles will become public. Others fear the police themselves--sometimes with good reason, according to Berrill.

"There are many times when gay and lesbian victims don't receive the same kind of justice, the same type of compassion, as other victims of crime," he said.

The problem, said Berrill, is growing particularly acute as the panic surrounding the AIDS epidemic deepens.

But Berrill offered three ways both individuals and the gay community as a whole can follow to make their world a safer place.

The first way, he said, is to be conscious of safety. Since the criminal can sense the vulnerability of his victims, Berrill advised everyone to develop street smarts, if not actual self-defense techniques, so they'll know

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My Heart's Desire

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TV, GAY PRIDE AND OTHER IMPORTANCES

BY HUNTLY HAVERSTOCK

The March meeting of the Lambda Center board focused on a variety of events that are planned for the spring.

The meeting started with a discussion about the possibility of wiring the center for cable TV. One member has promised to donate six month's worth of service. Another said he would be willing to lend an old television set. A third mentioned that he might even kick in his VCR. The board was excited about the possibility that the items might enhance the center's ability to offer the gay community a wider variety of services.

There are also plans in the works to organize a local celebration of Gay Pride Week in June. A variety of activities has been suggested to culminate with the center's annual picnic. Some have even suggested asking the mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton to proclaim Gay Pride Week in their respective cities. They feel it's worth as much of a shot as Pickle Eaters Week.

The blood sampling for the HTLV-3 antibody test will be held in the Lambda Center on April 7 and 9. The tests will be conducted by the health department of the City of Allentown under criteria of

anonymity established by the center's board.

At the same time, it should be pointed out that several members of the center's board remain skeptical about the worth of the test. Last November, after vigorous debate, two members of the board expressed their opposition to the sampling that is planned.

The writer of this column, a board member and officer of the Lambda Center, reminds those who take the test that the results can be misleading. He knows of one case in which a person with AIDS--one who was diagnosed several years ago--took the test and the results proved negative!

On a more upbeat note, the center continues to plan a number of programs to help AIDS patients. The "buddy" system of the AIDS Services Center (ASC) recently received \$600 from a local business person to print copies of brochures and to help in the training of the buddy volunteers. Already several persons with AIDS have been contacted.

These are just a few of the things the Lambda Center has been working on for the spring.

LAMBDA VALLEY MONTHLY

Le-Hi-Ho, Box 1633, Allentown, PA 18105

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VIOLENCE . . .

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how to respond when confronted by a challenge.

Second, Berrill said it is imperative for the gay community to develop a good rapport with local police authorities.

He noted that the gay communities in both Washington, D.C., and Seattle have excellent relations with the city police departments. But he also noted that gay and lesbian activists in both of those cities have established vibrant political organizations that consistently stress law enforcement issues.

But in many other places, including some small cities in the south and in the midwest, local gay organizations have spawned the introduction of gay sensitivity training to the ongoing educational program of the local police.

The third way in which the gay community can help solve the problem of violence against itself is by organizing an educational campaign aimed at increasing

the awareness of not just the gay community but the larger community as well, Berrill said.

For his part, Wiesner defended the performance of the Allentown Police when they are called on to deal with gay and lesbian victims of crime.

He said that officers responding to a report of a crime don't view the people they come in contact with as either gay or straight. Instead, said Wiesner, the police view them as either victims or criminals.

Wiesner said that he has heard of no complaints against the department concerning its treatment of gay people.

Sherry Shepherd of the Crime Victims Council had perhaps the most hopeful message of all. Explaining that the council is sensitive to the special needs of gay and lesbian victims of crime, she outlined the various services that it offers to everyone.

She said the council will help a victim determine whether it is in his or her best interest to report the crime to

50's PARTY !!!!!

April 12 - Drag Night
 April 18 - Talent Night
 April 26 - 60's Night
 May 10 - 70's Night
 May 11 - Talent Night
 May 24 - 50's - 80's Mixed Music

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the authorities. Then, if they do, the council will monitor the case for the victim--from arrest, through to prosecution and all the way up past sentencing. It will help the victim file crime victim's compensation forms. It will help the victim prepare for court hearings. It offers counseling for victims who might suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome.

"We'll help you any way we can," said Sheppherd, "and we're all committed people."

Last month's panel presentation was the first in a series of discussions that will be dedicated to the subject of crime in the gay community. Each will meet on the third Thursday of the month.

On April 17, the topic will be further explored with a presentation on "Victim Trauma Syndrome"--the feelings of stress and dread that a crime victim sometimes experiences even months after an incident. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Lambda Center and is sponsored by the Crime Victims Council.

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LAMBDA CENTER- April is shaping up to be another banner month at the Lambda Center. The amount of program and its diversity is continuing to increase in response to the needs and desires of the Lehigh Valley Gay/Lesbian Community and your input is appreciated.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP - VIDEO NIGHT

On April 11, we kick off our first video night. This event is planned to be a monthly occurrence in conjunction with Young Adult Group. It will begin at 8:30 on the second Friday of the month and will show first run videos. The Young Adult Night should be noted has been moved back to Fridays at the groups suggestion and begins at 8:30 so as not to conflict with Al-Anon. Video night is open to everyone regardless of age. Cost will be by donation. April's video highlight will be Bachelor Party. This sounds like it will be worth checking out!!!!

HOTLINE

The Hotline will hold its regular business meeting on the 17th. Program for the evening will be on crime in the gay community. This is the follow-up to the Panel Discussion held last month. The program will be lead by members of the Crime Victims Council and is open to the gay community at large after 8:00. The business portion of the meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 so we can finish in time. Also note that training for new volunteers is on the 6th and 13th at 7:30-9:00 p.m.

HTLV III SAMPLING

On the 7th and 10th the Allentown Health Bureau will be using the Lambda Center for the purpose of taking samples of blood for those that wish to take the HTLV III anti-body test. Pre-counseling for the sampling will be done prior to the sampling itself. The Center maintains that it neither encourages nor endorses the test, but if after consultation with a professional anyone feels that the test would benefit him/her we will offer it as a place where confidentiality can be assured and less intimidating than the STD Clinics. Counseling begins at 6:30 and sampling will be from 7:00-9:00p.m.

WOMEN'S NIGHT

Women please take note of the programming for Women's Night on the calendar. Two events of interest are being held in April. The first will be an evening of Womyn's music. The event will begin at 7:30 and feature artists like Chris Williamson, Ferren, Theresa Turrel, Margie Adams, and Meg Christian. Both tapes and albums will be played. If you own any of your own Womyn's Music bring it along and share it with the group. Also if you know of any upcoming Womyn's Festivals bring that information along.

The second Women's Night will be on dream analysis. Ever wonder what those dreams mean? Wonder no more. A professional dream analyst will take you through the meaning of dreams.

LOOKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

June is the month to celebrate Gay Pride in the Lehigh Valley. We will begin our Gay Pride celebration with our annual picnic on June 8th and won't stop celebrating until the New York Gay Pride parade and Christopher Street Festival. There are lectures, movies, and parties already being planned. If you have any ideas for activities or would like to help in what's already planned contact Rod at 433-7377.

YOUR PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LAMBDA CENTER IF YOUR NOT ALREADY ONE. ALSO PLEASE MAKE A DONATION OF ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO OFFER SUPPORT TO THE GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!!

LAMBDA CENTER'S APRIL CALENDAR

742 HAMILTON MALL
ALLENTOWN, PA
MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 1656
ALLENTOWN, PA 18105

Center office: 433-7377
Hotline: 433-5444
AIDS Services
Center: 433-5444

s	m	t	w	t	f	s
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Ongoing GOINGS ON

Sun., Tues., Thurs., & Fri	HOTLINE 433-5444	7:00-10:00
Tuesdays (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)	Metropolitan Community Church	7:30
Sundays (Beginning 5/4)	MCC moves to Sunday evening worship	7:30
Fridays (4, 11, 18, 25)	Al-Anon	7:00-8:00

Calendar of Events

4/3 Thursday	Lambda Center Board of Directors	7:30
4/7 Monday	Women's Night-Program: Women's Music	7:30
4/7 Monday	HTLV III Sampling	6:30-9:00
4/6 Sunday	Hotline Training	7:30-9:00
4/11 Friday	Spring Party-VIDEO NIGHT	8:30
4/10 Thursday	HTLV III Sampling	6:30-9:00
4/13 Sunday	Hotline Training	7:30-9:00
4/14 Monday	Salon Night Discussion Group- Subject: "Being Gay in the Lehigh Valley"	7:30
4/17 Thursday	Hotline Business meeting	7:30
4/17 Thursday	Crime Prevention in the Gay Community Panel Dis.	8:00
4/21 Monday	Women's Night-Program: Dream Analysis	7:30
4/25 Friday	Young Adult Group	8:30-10:00
4/27 Sunday	Le-Hi-Ho Meeting	2:00-5:00
5/1 Thursday	Lambda Center Board of Directors	7:30
5/4 Sunday	MCC Worship moves to Sundays	7:30
5/5 Monday	Women's Night	7:30
5/6 Tuesday	Center Dev. and Communications Committee Meeting	7:30-9:00

AIDS Services Center

4/6 Sunday	"Suburban" Team meeting at Brian's House	7:30
4/9 Wednesday	Family and friends of Persons with AIDS Support Group	7:30
4/10 Thursday	Persons with AIDS Therapy Group	7:30
4/23 Wednesday	Family and friends of Persons with AIDS Support Group	7:30
4/24 Thursday	Persons with AIDS Therapy Group	7:30

MEMBERSHIP--No. _____ @ \$15.00 EA. -TOTAL _____

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THANK YOU!!!!

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LOOK FORWARD TO OUR RENOVATION
& NINTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY IN APRIL.

DREAMY TALK PLANNED FOR CENTER

You may think that dreams are little more than the random thought patterns that are unleashed by the relaxation of sleep--and made pleasant or disturbing by what you last ate.

That may be partly true, but there is a lot more to understand about the passions of our unconscious meanderings of the brain.

Providing some insights on the subject of dreaming is dream expert Terry Kay of Allentown. She believes that lots of good use can be made from an understanding of our dreams.

She'll be speaking on "Working While You're Sleeping" at 7:30 p.m. Monday,

April 21 at the Lambda Center.

In her presentation, Kay plans to touch on various aspects of our nighttime thinking process, including the mechanics of dreaming and some of the other conclusions she has reached after 14 years of research and self-exploration. She'll also be relying on volunteered dream experiences from the audience.

Kay, who has taught courses at Cedar Crest College and at Northampton County Area Community College, has been receiving clients locally for about 10 years.

The talk is sponsored by the Lambda Center, and a small charge will be requested at the door.

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TOWN HUSTLERS

BY THOMAS GIANELLI

Their optimal time occurs between the ages of 16 and 25. Most are finished at 22. Their place is among the shadows of darkened parks, street corners in center city, inside dark smelly corridors of adult book stores, or outside of gay bars.

Who are they? They are Allentown's hustlers--a diverse group ranging from transvestites who practically throw themselves on the cars of the late night cruising set to straight high school jocks trying to make a quick buck. They have many things in common. For the most part these hustlers do not sell sex; they barter in fantasies. What they end up buying, many times, are the shattered dreams of life that follow them through their later years.

They get into the hustling life through a variety of methods. Some come from broken homes and are forced to fend for themselves on the streets at an early age. Others begin doing it for the thrill and get so hooked-up in the lifestyle they find it hard to quit. Still others, do it because it feeds a deep narcissistic drive for ego approval. Many do it solely for the money.

Some of these hustlers are gay, some straight. Some have kindness in their soul as one who told of sending his hustling earnings from two weeks to help the famine victims in Ethiopia. Others are cold and calculating, always willing to rip off a trick or pull a knife at the least indication of danger. Some are extremely handsome; many are plain and could not even begin to compete with the young trade in cities like New York and Philadelphia (their sole commodity is their youth).

They sell fantasies. Prices range from \$20 to \$200 depending on the request, the financial situation of the "john" or the hustler's need for immediate money for food or to score some dope. The fantasies seldom involve making love. Many of the old "trade" (or "regulars") simply like to look at a young body for live masturbation or like to perform sex acts on a disinterested young god. Others

fantasies are bizarre: One hustler tells of a man who repeatedly paid him \$150 to sit at the end of a long hall and roll oranges into the man's genitalia. There are tales of a man asking to be tied up while the hustler spent an hour laughing at the man. Other tales delve into the realm of the truly kinky with the hustler providing the outlet for the fetish of his trick (these are the high priced scenes).

An Allentown hustler, Chris, now retired from the life at 21, said, "The whole thing is based on lies." That it is. Many of Allentown's hustlers are known by three or four names. They meet their regular tricks at appointed spots and tell them fantastic stories of their lives based on little fact. Although they often rip off someone and deal in dishonesty, when a hustler trusts someone with the truth they put a lot into a friendship and go out of their way to be supportive.

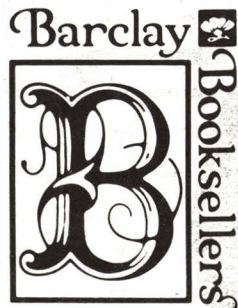
Hustlers buy into disillusioned dreams. Those who are straight develop a vile hatred of gays. Those who are gay find they cannot make love to someone because they are used to repeating with disinterest the phony moans of an orgasm and no longer know how to enjoy sex. They find the big money they were going to make is gone and that they are no longer the new kid on the block. At 25 most have no training for any kind of job and can no longer survive on the streets. Many end up sad and bitter towards the world and in some form of dependency.

When asked why he left hustling Chris replied, "It was winter and just too damn cold to stand at the park and put up with all this nonsense." He left hustling of his own accord. Others are not so lucky and are forced out. Some commit suicide. Others have continued run-ins with the police. It is not a happy life. It lacks dreams, or the dreams become nightmares. The bottom line can be heard in Lansford Wilson's one-act play, The Madness of Lady Bright--"Old hustlers don't die. They just start buying it back."

LAMBDA VALLEY MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES
(Circulation: 1,000)

AD SIZE	DIMENSIONS	SINGE PRICE	4 FOR PRICE OF 3
Business card	3½"x2"	\$12	\$36 (\$9 each)
Quarter page	3 3/4"x5"	\$20	\$60 (\$15 each)
Half page	8"x5" or 3 3/4"x10¼"	\$40	\$120 (\$30 each)
Full page	8"x10¼"	\$60	\$180 (\$45 each)

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